

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are currently pending in the application. In this reply Applicants have amended the specification. In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants respectfully traverse the objections and rejections and submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request notice of the same.

Objection to Specification

The specification was objected to because of informalities. Through the amendments to the specification, Applicants have corrected these informalities. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keller (US 2006/0184040) in view of Lorenz (US 7,317,938). Claims 9, 10, 11, 12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keller in view of Lorenz, further in view of Hannigan (US 5,999,081). Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keller in view of Lorenz, and Hannigan, further in view of Durkin (US 6678541), further in view of Acosta (US 7133710). Lastly, claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keller in view of Lorenz and Hannigan, and further in view of Rutchi et al (US 6,990,364). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that Keller (U.S. Pub No. 2006/0184040) is not prior art and has been improperly applied against the pending claims by the Examiner. Keller was published on August 17, 2006 and filed on December 7, 2005. Keller also claims priority to a provisional application filed December 9, 2004. On the other hand, the present application claims priority to PCT App. No. PCT/CN03/00820 filed September 25, 2003 and published as WO 2004/046696 on June 3, 2004. Applicants also claim priority to Chinese Application 02146704.8, filed on November 4, 2002. Thus, Applicants have established an effective filing date of at least

September 25, 2003 based on PCT Application No. PCT/CN03/00820, which is more than a year before Keller's earliest priority date. Applicants are entitled to at least the filing date of the PCT application under 35 U.S.C. § 365 (*see also* MPEP 201.13(b)). Therefore, Keller is not prior art under any provision of 35 U.S.C. § 102. As a result, the Examiner has improperly applied Keller as prior art against the pending claims. In addition, none of the remaining cited references, taken alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest the features of the pending claims.

For the reasons above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the above rejections, and submit that the applications is in condition for allowance.


CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims all pending claims. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments associated with this Amendment to Deposit Account 13-0206.

Applicants further invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number below to discuss any matters pertaining to the present Application.


Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail as First Class Mail under 37 CFR 1.8(a) in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 14, 2009.


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